POPULATION 94

No. 1 *Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994* April 1992

Message from the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

It gives me great pleasure to introduce **POPULATION 94**, the newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. In the two years leading to this important international gathering, **POPULATION 94** will keep the international community abreast of the Conference's important preparatory process and pre-conference activities worldwide.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council's decision in 1989 to convene an international conference on population was a timely response to a demand for action to address the triad of rapid population growth, increasing environmental degradation and pervasive poverty. The international conference will take place at a time of heightened global concern for sustainable development, a time in which a rapidly changing world needs concerted action.

No lasting solution to problems of the environment and poverty can be found without resolving population issues. Refining strategic population and development goals, particularly at the operational level, extending the outreach and effectiveness of population programmes, and securing commitments and resources over the long term will pave the way for sustained and sustainable development.

Much has changed since the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984. On the positive side, population policies have been almost universally adopted as integral parts of development efforts; reluctance to confront population as a development issue has largely been overcome; and developing countries, including those in Africa, now have a decade or more of experience in formulating and adopting population policies. Much progress has also been made in fertility reduction in some parts of the world.

However, success in some countries has fostered some unjustified complacency. Human numbers are growing faster than ever before; stress on the environment continues to increase; migratory pressures have grown; and in some regions, efforts to balance population and development have been held up by economic problems.

See Page 7, Col. 1

Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

Principal Officers:

Secretary-General
Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA

Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Director, Population Division, DESD

Executive Coordinator
Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, Director, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA

Deputy Executive Coordinator
Mr. German Bravo-Casas, Coordinator, World Population Conference Implementation, Population Division, DESD

Policy Experts Meet in Cairo

Population policies and programmes will be the main topics of an expert group meeting being convened in Cairo, Egypt from 12-16 April 1992. The meeting, organized by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development in consultation with the United Nations Population Fund, is an integral part of the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. The Government of Egypt and the National Population Council will host the gathering at Cairo's ultra-modern International Conference Centre.

The meeting will be the second of six expert group meetings leading to the 1994 Conference. Scholars and public officials from both the developing and developed world, representatives of the United Nations regional commissions, specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will review population policies and programmes in their regions; present national case studies; discuss the mobilization of resources; and recommend future directions for population activities and their effective integration into the development process.

Prime Minister Atef Sidki of Egypt will deliver the opening address. The Secretary-General of the 1994 Conference, Dr. Nafis Sadik, and the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Shunichi Inoue, will also make opening statements.

The meeting will adopt a set of recommendations which will be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference.

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Economic and Social Council Resolution 1991/93 International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the United Nations World Population Conference, 37/14 B of 16 November 1982 on Secretariat organization for United Nations special conferences, 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population, 44/210 of 22 December 1989 on future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 45/199 of 21 December 1990, containing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and 45/216 of 21 December 1990 on population and development,

Recalling also its resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, in which it decided to convene an international meeting on population in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund as Secretary-General of the 1994 international meeting on population and of the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as the Deputy Secretary-General of the meeting,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population1/ and the progress made in the preparations for the meeting,

Emphasizing the national sovereignty of all countries in formulating, adopting and implementing their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as of their social, economic and political conditions, and consistent with human rights and with the responsibilities of individuals, couples and families,

1. Decides that the meeting should henceforth be called the International Conference on Population and Development;

2. Invites the Secretary-General of the Conference and all concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in carrying out the preparatory activities of the Conference, to draw on the guidelines provided in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,2/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,3/ as well as on the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,4/ the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century,5/ and to draw on other recent major intergovernmental instruments and meetings;

3. Decides that the objectives of the Conference should be:

(a) To contribute to the review and appraisal of the progress made in reaching the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action6/ and to identify the obstacles encountered;

(b) To identify instruments and mechanisms in order to ensure the operational implementation of the recommendations;

(c) To maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda and their linkage to development;

(d) To consider the desired focus of intensified action at the global, regional and national levels, as well as all necessary ways and means of treating population issues in their proper development perspective during the forthcoming decade and beyond;

(e) To adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade in order to respond to the population and development issues of high priority identified in paragraph 4 below;

(f) To enhance the mobilization of resources needed, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the results of the Conference; resources should be mobilized at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity;

4. Emphasizes that population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development will be the overall theme of the Conference and identifies within that theme the following groups of issues, which are not listed in any order of priority, as those requiring the greatest attention, during the forthcoming decade, from the international community and from the Conference:

(a) Population growth, changes in demographic structure, including ageing of population, and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on the interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development;

(b) Population policies and programmes, with emphasis on the mobilization of resources for developing countries, at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity;

(c) The interrelationships between population, development, environment and related matters;

(d) Changes in the distribution of population, including socio-economic determinants of internal migration and the consequences for urban and rural development, as well as determinants and consequences of all types of international migration;

(e) Linkages between enhancing the roles and socio-economic status of women and population dynamics, including adolescent motherhood, maternal and child health, education and employment, with particular reference to the access of women to resources and the provision of services;

(f) Family-planning programmes, health and family well-being;

5. Stresses the need, in connection with foregoing issues, to take account of the particular circumstances of the least developed countries;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General of the Conference to convene six expert group meetings corresponding to the six groups of issues identified in paragraph 4 above, in order to provide the required input for consideration by the Conference, ensuring the participation of a full range of relevant disciplines and or geographical regions;

7. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to provide overall guidance, orientation and coordination of the input from the appropriate secretariats of the United Nations system to the preparatory activities of the Conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to make use of the substantive contribution of all organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system concerned, as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in the preparatory activities for the Conference;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to make full use of the existing resources of all units of the United Nations system concerned, in particular the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund;

10. Invites the regional commissions to convene as soon as possible meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions, in the light of paragraphs 3 and 4 above, bearing in mind the relationship between such policies and programmes and development issues, and to propose future action, as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the Conference;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular sessions of 1992, 1993 and 1994 on the progress made in all aspects of the preparatory activities for the Conference;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the status of the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development;

13. Decides, in principle, to hold the second session of the Preparatory Committee in August 1993, immediately following the rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, to review the state of the preparatory work, including the reports of the expert groups on their meetings;

14. Also decides, in principle, to hold the third session of the Preparatory Committee early in 1994 to review the documentation for the Conference, including the draft recommendations;

15. Recommends that the General Assembly consider establishing a voluntary fund for the purpose of supporting the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process and that it invite Governments to contribute to such a fund;

16. Requests the Conference to report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly.

32nd plenary meeting, 26 July 1991

1/ *E/1991/5.*
2/ *General Assembly resolution S-18/3.*
3/ *General Assembly resolution 45/199.*
4/ *A/45/695.*
5/ *See Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989 (New York, UNFPA, 1989).*
6/ *Report of the United Nations Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.*

Environment Experts Meet in New York

The first of the six expert group meetings, part of the preparatory process for the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, was held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 24 January 1992. Leading experts, policy makers and observers from all parts of the world met to discuss the complex interrelationships between population, environment and resources and how they affect economic development.

In her opening statement, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Conference, said that the convening of the meeting was an important first step in formulating a relevant agenda for the 1994 Conference. Dr. Sadik stressed the importance of population issues in achieving sustainable development, and said that it was particularly appropriate that critical linkages between population, environment and development be examined in light of disturbing demographic problems. She noted that population issues are now being given due recognition in global environmental fora.

Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference called for special attention to the policy implications of the environment-population nexus.

Professor George Benneh of Ghana was elected chairman. In his address, he emphasized the importance of the recommendations that the group would make to the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 Conference, which should be as concrete and as operational as possible. Ms. Maria Concepción Cruz (Philippines), Ms. Charlotte Höhn (Germany) and Mr. Pedro Jacobi (Brazil) served as vice-chairpersons. Ms. Höhn also chaired the Recommendations Drafting Committee.

Papers were presented on population aspects of environmental issues. Background papers were also submitted by UN agencies and organizations, regional commissions, NGOs and policy makers.

One of the key topics was the linkage between population and the deterioration of the environment. Human activity always has an impact on the environment, and can be expressed in the formula I = P x A x T, with I being the impact of human activities on the environment; P being population; A being per-capita consumption (determined by income and lifestyle); and T being environmentally-harmful technology that supplies A. The three factors P, A and T interact in a multiplicative fashion. Whatever the size of A and T, the role of P is bound to be significant even when a population (numbers, growth rates, distribution) is relatively small. For any type of technology, for any given level of consumption or waste, for any given level of poverty, the more people there are, the greater is the overall impact on the environment.

This equation illustrates how the developed countries (large A and T multipliers) and the developing countries (large P factor) can have an enormous impact on the environment. Some participants however suggested that the real relationships between population and the environment were more complex than the equation suggests.

The experts also pointed out that the stress on the environment caused by those factors may result in a "threshold effect" of irreversible damage. For example, most people in the developing world depend on fuel wood and charcoal for their daily energy needs. As long as the number of wood collectors does not exceed the capacity of the tree stock to replenish itself through regrowth, the local community can exploit the resource indefinitely. But when the number of collectors grows until they finally exceed the self-renewing capacity of the trees, even if only by a small amount, suddenly a point is reached where the tree stock starts to decline.

Critical environmental limitations have become increasingly apparent, the expert group concluded. It will become increasingly difficult to continue to use technological "fixes" to deal with environmental problems.

Participants adopted 18 recommendations which will be submitted to the Conference's Second Preparatory Committee in August 1993.

Designated ICPD Focal Points within the United Nations System

UNIT/ORG.	NAME AND TITLE
ECA	Mr. Ahmed Bahri, Chief, Population Division
ECE	Mr. Miroslav Macura, Chief, Population Activities Unit
ECLAC	Mr. Reynaldo Bajraj, Chief, Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
ESCAP	Mr. Nibhon Debavalya, Chief, Population Division
ESCWA	Mr. Yousef Gemayel, Senior Population Affairs Officer
FAO	Mr. Joop Alberts, Population Programme Coordinator
Habitat	Mr. Pietro Garau, Chief, Settlement, Planning and Policies Section, Research and Development Division
IFAD	Mr. Atiqur Rahman, Senior Economist, Policy and Planning Division
ILO	Mr. Ghazi Farooq, Coordinator, Population Activities, Employment Planning and Population Branch
UNEP	Mr. Uttam Dabholkar, Chief, Development Planning and Cooperation Unit
UNESCO	Mr. Raúl Urzúa, Director, Population and Human Settlements Division and Coordinator, Population Programmes
UNHCR	Mr. T. Ali, Senior Population Analyst
UNICEF	Mr. Paul Altesman, Director, United Nations Affairs, and Special Assistant to the Executive Director, or Dr. Nyi Nyi, Director, Programme Division, and Dr. Ranjit Atapattu, Senior Adviser, Primary Health Care
UNOV	Mr. Jacques du Guerny, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for the Advancement of Women
WFP	Ms. Darlène Bisson, Programme Adviser, Project Design Service
WHO	Dr. Hu Ching-Li, Asst. Director-General
World Bank	Dr. Anthony R. Measham, Chief, Population, Health and Nutrition Division, Population & Human Resources Department

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOOKING BACK . . .

1989

- 5-28 July — ECOSOC, Second regular session of 1989; Geneva; adoption of resolution 1989/91

1990

- June — Appointment by the United Nations Secretary General of Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, as Secretary-General of the Conference, and of Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Director of the Population Division, as Deputy Secretary-General

1991

- 4-8 March — First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
- March — Establishment of the NGO Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
- 3-26 July — ECOSOC, Second regular session of 1991; Geneva; Adoption of resolution 1991/93

1992

- 20-24 January — Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Development; United Nations Headquarters, New York
- 27 January — Informal Meeting of the ACC Ad hoc Task Force, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

1992

- 12-16 April — Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Programmes; Cairo, Egypt
- 22-26 June — Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women; Gaborone, Botswana
- July — (dates to be determined) ACC Ad hoc Task Force Meeting; United Nations Headquarters, New York
- 19-27 August — Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference; Denpasar, Indonesia; jointly organized by ESCAP and UNFPA
- 26-30 October — Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Wellbeing; Bangalore,India
- 16-20 November — Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure; Paris, France
- November — (dates to be determined) Third African Population Conference; Dakar, Senegal; jointly organized by ECA and UNFPA

1993

- 18-22 January — Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration; Lima, Peru
- 23-26 March — 1993 European Population Conference; Geneva, Switzerland; jointly organized by ECE, Council of Europe and UNFPA
- May/June — (dates and place to be determined) Regional Population Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean; jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA
- Spring — (dates and place to be determined) Regional Population Conference for the Arab World; jointly organized by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and UNFPA
- 16-19 August — Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York

1994

- February/March — (dates to be determined) Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Spring — (dates and place to be determined) Meetings of Regional Commissions to discuss the results of the regional population conferences and the reports of the Preparatory Committee
- Summer — (dates and place to be determined) - International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

The Process Begins - Background to the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

"Population, sustained growth and sustainable development" will be the overall themes of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. The Conference is being convened under the auspices of the United Nations, in response to two ECOSOC Resolutions.

The first of these, resolution 1989/91, adopted in July 1989, called for an "international meeting on population that would bring together high-level governmental authorities and population experts and be open to all States as full participants, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations". The resolution stressed the need for continued attention to population issues at a high policy level and designated the Population Commission, meeting in open-ended session, as the preparatory committee for the meeting.

Meeting at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 8 March 1991, the Preparatory Committee recommended the adoption of a draft resolution which further defined the objectives and themes of the meeting, identified groups of priority issues, and proposed the convening of six expert group meetings, regional population conferences and two additional sessions of the Preparatory Committee. The draft resolution was adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session in July 1991 as resolution 1991/93, "International Conference on Population and Development".

Setting Goals

The meeting in 1994 will be the fifth international population conference convened by the United Nations. The first two, in Rome in 1954 and in Belgrade in 1965, were purely technical meetings. In contrast, the two subsequent conferences, the World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 and the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984, were intergovernmental meetings which set goals and made recommendations in the area of population. The International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, will be the third.

The objectives of the 1994 Conference are: 1) to review and appraise the progress made in reaching the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the 1974 Conference; 2) to identify ways to implement the recommendations of the Plan; 3) to increase awareness of population issues on the international agenda; 4) to consider the desired focus of action on population issues; 5) to adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade; and 6) to mobilize the needed resources.

Six groups of issues were also identified in the ECOSOC resolution as requiring the greatest attention: population growth and demographic structure; population policies and programmes; population, environment and development; population distribution and migration; population and women; and family planning, health and family well-being.

These issues will be the topics of six expert group meetings being convened in 1992 and 1993 in order to provide input and an adequate scientific basis for the formulation of recommendations at the Conference.

Regional Conferences

In addition to governments and experts, all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will contribute to the Conference and the preparatory process in their areas of expertise. The Regional Commissions of the United Nations will organize their own population conferences to review their experiences in population and to propose future action. These meetings, which are being jointly sponsored by the regional commissions and UNFPA, will take place in 1992 and 1993. The recommendations that emerge from them will be made available to the Preparatory Committee at its second session and to the Conference itself.

The resolution stressed the need for continued attention to population issues

The Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, as Secretary-General of the Conference, and Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Development, as Deputy Secretary-General. Other principal officers include Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, Director, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, as Executive Coordinator of the Conference, and Mr. German Bravo-Casas, Coordinator, World Population Conference Implementation, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Development, as Deputy Executive Coordinator.

UNFPA, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Development, will be responsible for coordinating the overall organizational preparations for the Conference, including procuring financial resources, public information and communication activities, promoting regional and national preparatory activities and maintaining close relationships with Governments. UNFPA will also provide programme-related information to ensure the operational orientation of the Conference.

Similarly, the Department of Economic and Social Development, in consultation with UNFPA, will be responsible for coordinating the substantive aspects of the preparations for the Conference, including the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the formulation of the draft recommendations.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) has established an Ad-hoc Task Force to ensure inter-agency coordination and participation by United Nations bodies in the 1994 Conference and its preparatory process. Focal points in the specialized agencies and organizations have already been designated. An informal meeting of the Ad-hoc Task Force was held on 27 January 1992; the first formal meeting will be held in July 1992, at the time of the ECOSOC session.

There will be two more sessions of the Preparatory Committee, one in August 1993 to review the preparatory work, including the reports and recommendations of the expert group meetings, and the other in early 1994, to review the documentation for the Conference. The Economic and Social Council will decide on the site and dates of the Conference during its session in June-July 1992.

Lima To Host Migration Experts

Lima, Peru will be the site of the United Nations Expert Group meeting on Population Distribution and Migration. The meeting, which will take place from 18 to 22 January 1993, will analyse the causes and implications of recent population movements. The meeting is expected to draft recommendations for consideration at the 1994 Conference.

The challenges of the urban-based world of the future and the stresses posed by rapid rates of urbanization in much of the developing world will be high on the agenda. The meeting will single out national policies which have the most beneficial effect on the balance of population for both rural sending areas and urban receiving ones.

18 to 22 January 1993

Another critical issue is the potential for large-scale international migration. Regional conflicts have led to large increases in the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers. At the same time environmental and economic pressures are stimulating migration. These issues will be examined and strategies suggested to relieve migratory pressures through international cooperation. Discussions will take place within the framework of the international conventions which guarantee basic human rights for all people.

The meeting is being organized by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development in consultation with the United Nations Population Fund.

News from the NGOs

NGOs are preparing to participate fully in the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. More than forty NGOs were represented at the first meeting of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (CONGO) Planning Committee for the 1994 Conference which met on 12 March 1992 in New York. To date, more than fifty NGOs have joined the Committee.

The NGO Planning Committee is focusing its attention on facilitating participation in three important activities: the regional population conferences, the preparatory committees and the Conference itself. Addressing the gathering on 12 March, Mr. David Poindexter, Committee Convener, stressed the importance of population and development issues, and the pathfinding role that NGOS played in the field of population and development, bringing it to the attention of Governments and continuing to work in partnership with them.

The first of the regional population conferences, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, to be held in Denpasar, Indonesia from 19-27 August 1992, will receive the Committee's immediate attention. The Committee is also examining the possibility of holding an NGO Consultation in 1993.

NGOs wishing to receive more information about Planning Committee activities are invited to contact:

Mr. David O. Poindexter, Convener
NGO Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
777 United Nations Plaza Telephone: (212) 687-3366
New York, N.Y. 10017 Fax: (212) 661-4188

Egypt's Population Soars to 57 Million--But Growth Slows

Egypt's influential daily newspaper, Al-Ahram, recently cited National Population Council statistics indicating that Egypt's population had reached 57.8 million on 1 January 1992, including 2.5 million expatriates.

Dr. Maher Mahran, the Council's chairman, said the total is expected to jump to 67 million by the year 2000 and hit the 70 million mark in the next ten years.

Mahran pointed out that the Government has been sounding warnings about the consequences of rapid population growth and established the National Population Council to deal with the problem. He took comfort in the fact that the pace of the population explosion has shown signs of slowing down during the past few years. "We have placed our feet on the right path and this should give rise to relative optimism," Mahran said.

He said that in 1987 the population of Egypt increased by one million every seven months but the increase in 1989 had slowed down to one million every nine months. The annual increase was 1.7 million in 1988 but dropped to 1.4 million in 1989 and to 1.3 million in 1990. The annual rate of increase was 2.4 per cent. Mahran ascribed the relative decline in population growth to the spread of family planning services.

Focal Points for the Expert Group Meetings

	Population Division	UNFPA
Population Policies and Programmes Programmes Cairo, Egypt, 12-16 April 1992	Ms. Ellen Brennan	Mr. Mohammed Nizamuddin
Population and Women Gaborone, Botswana, 22-26 June 1992	Ms. Mary-Beth Weinberger	Ms. Catherine Pierce
Family Planning, Health and Family Well-Being Bangalore, India, 26-30 October 1992	Dr. Aminur Rahman Khan	Dr. Nicholas Dodd
Population Growth and Demographic Structure Paris, France, 16-20 November 1992	Mr. Joseph Chamie	Mr. Gerardo Gonzalez
Population Distribution and Migration Lima, Peru, 18-22 January 1993	Ms. Birgitta Bucht	Mr. Michael Vlassoff

Message from the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population (Continued from page 1)

The International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, will remind the international community that population problems are among the most serious threats to the attainment of sustained growth and sustainable development.

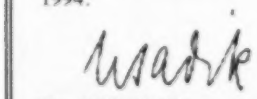
The Conference will address other issues, including continued high rates of population growth in Africa and in parts of Asia and Central America; the role and status of women as critical factors in demographic change and socio-economic development; the aging of populations and changes in family and household structures; rapid urbanization in the developing world and sharp increases in the number of international migrants and refugees; and finally, the complex interrelationships among population, resources, environment and development.

The 1994 Conference will strive to transform the heightened awareness of current and emerging population issues into operational strategies for effective and comprehensive programmes. The Economic and Social Council has instructed the Conference to adopt a consolidated and updated set of recommendations to guide the implementation of population policies and programmes. In preparing the draft of these recommendations, the World Population Plan of Action, the 88 recommendations adopted in Mexico in 1984 for the further implementation of the Plan, as well as other relevant documents will be taken into account. The draft recommendations will be reviewed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee before they are presented to the Conference for its consideration.

The 1994 Conference is not just about policies and goals, demographic change and development at the macro level. It is also about improving the quality of life at the individual level. We must remember the women, men and children throughout the world who suffer from hunger, poor health and premature death; the women and adolescent girls who die or are disabled due to inadequate reproductive health services; the large numbers of children, especially girls, who are out of school; the families crowded into urban slums; or the migrants from rural areas whose landholdings have become too fragmented or eroded to provide a living. Making family planning as widely available as possible to both women and men, improving maternal and child health, and advancing women's status, education and options can contribute to slower, more balanced population growth and a sustainable future.

Population change is slow and the beneficial effects of population policies and programmes are felt over the long term. Our challenge is to maintain our commitment over the long term, to ensure a better quality of life for future generations.

I hope that **Population 94** will contribute to increased awareness of population issues and to the success of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.



Dr. Nafis Sadik
Secretary-General
International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

Call for National Committees

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Conference Secretary-General, has called upon all Governments to set up national committees for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The national committees will serve as focal points for the 1994 Conference, and will facilitate national preparations including the preparation of a national report on population. Guidelines for preparing the report will shortly be distributed to Permanent Missions to the United Nations. The reports should address the population situation, policies and programmes unique to each country, including maternal and child health/family planning programmes and services; population information and education; women, population and development programmes; population policy formulation and processes; and other issues, including, but not limited to, population and the environment, youth, AIDS, aging, resource mobilization and funding. The reports will be useful in disseminating information and experiences among countries.

The National Committees will also manage awareness-creation and public information activities for the Conference.

Experts Debate Women's Position

The Expert Group Meeting on Women and Population will take place in Gaborone, Botswana from 22 - 26 June 1992. The meeting will focus on linkages between the role and socio-economic status of women and population dynamics. The sessions will address the following topics: women's health and mortality; women, fertility and family planning; the demographic impact of educating girls; women's economic activity and fertility behaviour; and, women, population and the environment.

The meeting will bring together experts from developing and developed countries having both research and operational experience in the area of women, population and development. Permeating all the discussions will be a consideration of women's position in various societies, how their situations have been changing and the aspects of those changes that are associated with recent demographic trends. It is expected that the exchanges at this meeting will lead to the formulation of recommendations, based on practical experience and scientifically grounded research, to be forwarded to the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The Expert Group Meeting will be opened by the Honourable Festus Mogae, Vice President and Minister of Finance and Planning. Dr. Nafis Sadik, the Secretary General of the 1994 Conference, will address the opening session. The Honourable Patrick Balopi, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, will preside at the closing ceremony.

Key to Acronyms

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CONGO	Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
DESD	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

POPULATION 94 is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. **POPULATION 94** welcomes your comments and contributions. Please contact us at:

POPULATION 94
ICPD Secretariat
c/o United Nations Population Fund
220 E. 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Telephone: (212) 297-5222/5230
Fax: (212) 297-4915
Telex: 7607883

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Population Policies and Programmes Debated at Cairo Meeting

Cairo's impressive International Conference Centre was the site of the second in a series of six expert group meetings convened in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. The meeting, which took place from 12-16 April 1992, addressed the topic "Population Policies and Programmes."

Close to fifty population scholars, policy-makers and representatives of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations met to compare and analyze their experiences in population policies and programmes and to consider an agenda for action for the next decade. Resource mobilization and the political commitments called for in the Amsterdam Declaration, adopted at the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1989), and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, were given special attention.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Conference Secretary-General, stated that the Egyptian population programme had, after years of policy and programme development, reached a level of development that had produced an observable impact on rates of population growth. Dr. Sadik emphasized the challenge that population growth posed to sustainable development and the environment. Delayed action to reduce rapid population growth, she said, could make a difference of up to four billion in the size of the world's population in the year 2050--equal to the whole of world population in 1975. She called on the group to define policy alternatives and programmatic requirements to secure a sustainable future. Dr. Sadik also reviewed specific critical issues in various parts of the world: growth and distribution problems in Africa, Asia and Latin America; the growing urgency of international migration; and the emerging importance of balanced population growth and population ageing.

Dr. Sadik emphasized the lessons learned from over two decades of experience in population policies and programmes, focusing on the need for political commitment, broad mobilization of individual and community support, involvement of women at all stages of programme planning and execution, and the need to provide a strong institutional framework for service delivery. She stressed the importance of involving the full range of governmental, non-governmental and private organizations.

Dr. Maher Mahran, Chairman of Egypt's National Population Council, welcomed the assembled experts and guests. The opening address was given by Dr. Mohamed Ragheb Dwidar, the Egyptian Minister of Health, who spoke on behalf of the Prime Minister. Dr. Dwidar stressed the importance of the national family planning programme in Egypt's overall development strategy. Notable achievements had been the decline in fertility and in infant and child mortality, and improvements in maternal and child health which had been fostered by the country's family planning programme.

Mr. Shunichi Inoue, the Deputy Secretary-General of the 1994 Conference and Director of the Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development, stressed the progress which had been made in policy development over the past decade.

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Population Policies and Programmes Debated at Cairo Meeting (Continued from page 1)

Dr. Riad Tabbarah (Lebanon) was elected Chairman of the meeting. Other officers included: Ms. Charlotte Gardiner (Ghana) and Mr. Chris Allison (U.K.), Vice-Chairmen; Mr. Hussein Abdul Aziz Sayed (Egypt), Chairman, Recommendations Committee; Ms. Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller (Brazil), Rapporteur. The Recommendations Committee included Ms. Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary), Mr. Aprodicio Laquian (Philippines), Ms. Simeem Mahmud (Bangladesh), Mr. Raúl Urzúa (UNESCO) and Mr. Steven Sinding (U.S.A.).

No single statement does justice to the wide range of concerns elaborated at the meeting. Close attention was paid to the responsiveness of population policy to local needs and to developing and maintaining adaptable implementation frameworks for programme activities.

Policy considerations were addressed first. The United Nations Population Division presented a broad overview of the evolution of population policy since 1984. Experts then presented papers reviewing particular population policy issues and accomplishments in both developing and more developed regions of the world.

Population programmes followed the discussion on policy. The first paper, presented by UNFPA, summarized the achievements and challenges of population programmes, and gave attention to the lessons learned from 23 years of experience in population activities. Specific country experiences were then reviewed, including a case study from Indonesia (which has one of the most established and successful national population programmes) and another from Rwanda (which has one of the newest, community-rooted population programmes). Another paper presented a succinct summary of the resource requirements and institutional and programme development needs for the coming decade.

The final set of issues dealt with resource mobilization. The growing role of domestic resource generation and the challenge posed by future requirements had been noted in the UNFPA contribution and was the central topic of one of the presentations. The role and utility of cost-sharing and cost-recovery mechanisms in programme execution were also the subject of extended discussions.

The many valuable contributions of non-governmental organizations to policy and programme formulation, local community development, implementation of health and family planning programmes, and advocacy were reviewed and commended. All discussions stressed the need for broad-based action and also stressed the magnitude of commitments that would be required to attain programme goals.

The experts also reviewed multilateral and bilateral population assistance. One of the interesting points made in the discussion concerned donor coordination problems. While frequently thought to be a cause for concern, it was pointed out that donor coordination problems occur only in a handful of countries, since assistance to many nations' population programmes comes from a single source or a small number of sources. Donor coordination problems are therefore present only in nations with many bilateral and multilateral donors of population assistance. The special problems of the least developed countries were also the subject of a separate paper. The group suggested that UNFPA continue to play a leading role in donor coordination, where relevant, and in providing assistance in formulating country population strategies.

A final set of expert analyses addressed future directions for population policy and programme efforts. The discussion affirmed the importance of the political skills necessary to assure that priority be given to population programme activities, to integrating population concerns into development strategies, and to defining strategies for coordinating policy and programme activities.

One of the key concerns of the entire meeting was an effort to identify emerging directions for action, which could raise and effectively use resources. On the positive side, it was noted that satisfying unmet needs for family planning services would achieve significant fertility reductions consistent with the Amsterdam Declaration goals. However, this fact does not diminish the magnitude of financial and political resources needed to attain that end.

Participants adopted twenty-one recommendations which will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference in August 1993. These covered a variety of issues which had been addressed and reviewed in the presentations. Among these were recommendations calling for: assessments of prior policy and programme actions; renewals of political and financial commitments; scrutiny of policy and programme institutions and their coordination; long-term strategies to most effectively use the inputs of all sources (governmental, non-governmental, local, regional and international); improving the quality of services; promoting the decentralized delivery of services; and emphasizing and further empowering women and recognizing their basic rights.

Overall, the discussions and the recommendations indicated the importance of population policy and programme issues in the development process, the magnitude of the tasks being undertaken, and the need to exert every possible effort to generate the will, the capacity, and the resources to attain essential population and development goals.

Experts to Consider Women-Population Nexus

The connection between the status of women and the pace of development is becoming increasingly clear. Studies have shown that economic growth and improvement in the quality of life have been fastest in those areas where women enjoy higher status, and slowest where they face the greatest disadvantages. There can be no sustainable development without development for women.

The Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women, which will take place from 22-26 June 1992 in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, will provide a welcome opportunity to re-examine this connection and to review changes in women's social and economic position since the 1984 International Population Conference, changes which are viewed as closely related to recent demographic trends.

This is the third of six expert group meetings which form part of the crucial preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. Participants will adopt a set of action-oriented recommendations that will be presented to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Committee.

As a basis for the discussions and recommendations, experts from both developing and developed countries, most of whom are women, have been invited to present up-to-date information and scientific evidence on topics including: social valuation and participation of women and girls, women's autonomy and population trends; women, health and mortality; women, fertility and family planning; women's education and its impact on health, family welfare and fertility; linkages between women's economic activity and population dynamics; and population, environment and development: issues of special concern for women.

A variety of non-governmental organizations, agencies within the United Nations system and representatives of the host Government will also participate in the discussions and add their expertise and experience to the formulation of the recommendations.

The Honourable Festus Mogae, Vice President and Minister of Finance and Planning of Botswana, will open the meeting. Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary General of the 1994 Conference, and Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Deputy Secretary General of the Conference, will address the group during the opening session. The Honourable Patrick Balopi, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Botswana, will preside at the closing ceremony.

The inclusion of women's status and roles as a priority theme for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 is a sign that women's issues are increasingly being viewed by the international community as crucial for demographic and social change, as well as matters of concern in their own right. This growing concern reflects in part a disappointment with the pace of improvement in women's status, in part a growing acceptance of the principles espoused in Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It also reflects a growing conviction that the betterment of women's situation is vital for the achievement of other social and economic goals, ranging from improved health status of all family members, to changes in population growth rates, to the achievement of sustainable economic development.

IUSSP General Conference Set for 1993

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) will convene its Twenty-second General Conference in Montreal from 24 August to 1 September 1993, at the invitation of the Federation of Canadian Demographers and under the auspices of the Governments of Canada and Quebec.

IUSSP is a leading international professional association for those with an interest in population studies. It was founded in 1928, and has 2000 members worldwide.

The General Conference will include a special plenary session devoted to a discussion of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

IUSSP has a long history of cooperation with the United Nations, having been a key partner in the organization of population conferences held in Rome in 1954 and Belgrade in 1965. The Union continues to maintain close ties with many United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes, particularly UNFPA, and also with other major donors and organizations working in the population field.

For more information about the IUSSP Conference, please contact:

Mr. Bruno Remiche, Executive Secretary
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Rue des Augustins 34, 4000 Liège Belgium
Tel: 32-41-22.40.80
Fax: 32-41-22.38.47
Telex: 42648.POPUN

India to Host Family Planning Meeting

India will play host to the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-Being in Bangalore from 26-30 October 1992. The meeting, one of six expert group meetings preceding the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, will bring together renowned experts in family planning, policy-makers, representatives of both inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and United Nations officials.

Despite the success of a number of family planning programmes in developing regions of the world, implementation problems continue to hinder progress in some countries. The meeting will attempt to address these problems.

Changes in the social, economic and demographic conditions of the world are such that even when programmes are successful, there is no room for complacency. Programmes should be continually evaluated and reviewed. The considerable increase in the number of couples who will need access to family planning services and information by the year 2000 will be a major consideration in shaping family planning programmes in the years ahead.

Family planning is not just a demographic issue. It is also an issue related to individual rights, socio-economic development, preservation of the environment, and the health and well-being of women, couples, families and society at large. The participants will examine the issues in this light, and will place special emphasis on both operational and financial questions.

The general objectives of the meeting are how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing family planning programmes and services; how to reach larger segments of the population; how to devise innovative approaches to new or existing problems; and how to obtain the funding needed for the ever-increasing demand for family planning services.

The Expert Group Meeting encompasses seven sessions. The session on "Society and Family Planning" will examine societal aspects of family planning programmes in developing countries, in particular, the political, economic and socio-cultural context in which programmes operate, with special emphasis on the role and status of women. The session on "Family Planning Programmes: Lessons Learned" will discuss the impact of family planning programmes around the globe and attempt to draw lessons from those experiences. "Programme Implementation" will address important operational aspects of family planning programmes, including their organization and management; quality of services; human resource development; unreached populations; adolescent fertility; information, education and communication activities; community-based delivery systems; social marketing of contraceptives; and future contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs.

Nowadays, family planning programmes are seen not only as programmes to reduce fertility, but as programmes which promote the welfare of the entire family. The session devoted to "Family Planning and Health" will discuss safe motherhood and child survival, and sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. "Family Planning and Family Well-Being" will review changes in the size and structure of the family and consider the implications of these changes for family well-being and child development.

An emerging issue which will be addressed is that of people's involvement in family planning programmes. Direct community involvement helps ensure that services are provided in accordance with community preferences, and are thus more likely to be accepted.

Another question which participants will consider is the cost of contraception for individual couples, which in some circumstances may still be an important barrier to contraceptive practice. How much can users around the world afford to pay, and how much will Governments need to spend to make family planning information, supplies and services fully available?

The future role of NGOs and the private sector in family planning service delivery will also be raised, in view of the expected rise in the number of users and the cost of providing high quality services.

The final session of the Expert Group Meeting will be devoted to the discussion and adoption of a set of recommendations to be presented to the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

11 JULY
IS
WORLD POPULATION DAY

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING EVENTS

1992

■ 29 June - 31 July	ECOSOC, regular session; United Nations Headquarters, New York
■ 2 July	ECOSOC discussion on preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
■ 6 July	ACC Ad hoc Task Force Meeting, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
■ 19-27 August	Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference; Denpasar, Indonesia; jointly organized by ESCAP and UNFPA
■ 6-9 October	Meeting of Government Experts in preparation for the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Population Conference; Saint Lucia
■ 26-30 October	Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-Being; Bangalore, India
■ 16-20 November	Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure; Paris, France
■ 7-12 December	(dates tentative) - Third African Population Conference; Dakar, Senegal; jointly organized by ECA and UNFPA

1993

■ 18-22 January	Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration; Latin America
■ 23-26 March	1993 European Population Conference; Geneva, Switzerland; jointly organized by ECE, the Council of Europe and UNFPA
■ May/June	(dates and venue to be determined) - Regional Population Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean; jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA
■ 4-9 April	(dates tentative) - Regional Population Conference for the Arab World; Amman, Jordan; jointly organized by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and UNFPA
■ 16-19 August	Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
■ 24 August - 1 September	22nd IUSSP General Conference, Montreal, Canada

1994

■ February/March	(dates to be determined) - Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York
■ Spring	(dates and place to be determined) - Meetings of Regional Commissions to discuss the results of the regional population conferences and the reports of the Preparatory Committee
■ Early September	(dates and place to be determined) - International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

Paris Site of Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure

One of the six groups of issues identified by the Economic and Social Council as requiring the greatest attention during the forthcoming decade from the international community and from the 1994 Conference, is population growth, changes in demographic structure, including ageing of the population, and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on the interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development.

These issues will be discussed at an up-coming Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure, which will take place from 16-20 November 1992 in Paris, at the invitation of the French Government. The Meeting will mark the fifth of six expert group meetings leading to the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The meeting will be held at UNESCO Headquarters. Organized by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Social Affairs of France, the group of gathered experts will debate the complex interrelationships between demographic variables and socio-economic development. The links between population growth and socio-economic development have been the subject of intense controversy for more than two decades.

Invited scholars from around the world, as well as representatives of United Nations bodies and organizations, regional commissions, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will attend. Each of the experts will submit a technical paper in his or her field of specialization. Participants will discuss the issues during the eight scheduled plenary sessions.

Participants will debate the following topics: socio-economic development and population trends; demographic changes and social development; population and poverty; population growth and labour absorption; and ageing issues in both the developing and developed world.

To conclude the week of deliberations, a set of recommendations will be adopted by participants and will be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference. These recommendations, along with those from the other five expert group meetings, will provide input and a scientific basis for the formulation of recommendations at the 1994 Conference.

Latin American and Caribbean Region Begins Preparations for 1994

Mexico City will be the site of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Population Conference scheduled for May/June 1993. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) will organize the Conference in cooperation with UNFPA.

The Conference will be preceded by a Meeting of Government Experts in Saint Lucia, from 6-9 October 1992, also organized in cooperation with UNFPA. The Meeting will provide a forum to discuss the topics on the agenda for the 1994 Conference and to seek a consensus on the issues.

The specific issues to be discussed at the Saint Lucia Meeting correspond to the general theme of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, i.e. the complex interactions between population, sustained growth and sustainable development. Special attention will be paid to population dynamics and poverty alleviation, as well as to the particular situation of the English-speaking countries of the region.

The following scientific papers will be presented at the Saint Lucia Meeting:

1) Population growth, fertility and mortality transition, changes in demographic structure, including ageing, and trends in population distribution, migration and urbanization;

2) Demographic dynamics and development in the Caribbean subregion;

3) Population programmes and policies and their integration into economic and social development policies and plans;

4) Interrelationships among population growth and distribution, environment and sustainable development;

5) Roles and socio-economic situation of women and population dynamics; and

6) Family planning, health and family well-being, with particular emphasis on the situation of adolescents.

No dates have yet been set for the Regional Population Conference in Mexico City.

Population and Sustainable Development Theme of Asian and Pacific Population Conference

"Population and Sustainable Development: Goals and Strategies into the 21st Century" will be the theme of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference scheduled for 19 - 27 August 1992 in Denpasar (Bali), Indonesia. The Conference is being organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Previous regional population conferences took place in New Delhi in 1963, Tokyo in 1972 and Colombo in 1982.

Three pre-conference seminars were organized to focus on technical aspects of selected topics. The first was an expert group meeting on population, environment and sustainable development held in Jomtien, Thailand in May 1991. It was followed by a seminar on migration and urbanization in Seoul, Korea in January 1992, and a seminar on family planning and family health and welfare programmes held in Beijing, China, in March 1992. The conclusions and findings of the regional seminars will provide important technical input to the regional conference.

The Asian and Pacific Population Conference will consist of two meetings: a senior officials' meeting for five days, which will be followed by a two-day ministerial meeting.

Objectives of the Conference are: 1) to review the progress in the implementation of the 1982 Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development and to develop inter-disciplinary approaches to social and economic goals, in the light of emerging population issues and changing economic situations; 2) to increase awareness of population issues and to deepen the understanding of Governments of important issues in population and development in the next decade and beyond; 3) to identify and endorse agendas, policies, strategies and programmes responsive to emerging issues, in consonance with goals of sustainable development; 4) to intensify regional cooperation in the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects designed to deal with population problems in the 1990s, and to strengthen both the political and financial commitments necessary to safeguard the future; 5) to delineate specific programme strategies to enhance the role and status of women in accelerating the pace of development; and 6) to adopt specific programme strategies to be implemented by Governments with the support of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, bilateral agencies and NGOs.

The Senior Officials Meeting will discuss in plenary sessions and in informal working groups topics ranging from mortality and fertility transitions to population ageing, and from population data and information to migration. Based on the deliberations, participants will consider and adopt reports on the topics. A Population Declaration will be drafted for presentation at the Ministerial Meeting.

At the two-day Ministerial Meeting, Ministers are expected to make statements on policy formulation and implementation in their respective countries and in the region in general. The Ministers will consider the draft Population Declaration and formally issue their declaration on the final day of the Conference.

KEY TO ACRONYMS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CELADE	Latin American Demographic Centre
CONGO	Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
DESD	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

European Agenda for Action on World Population

A new European Agenda for Action on World Population was adopted by European politicians at a conference in London held 31 January to 1 February 1992. The Conference was organized by the British All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development in cooperation with the Europe Regional Bureau of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Speakers at the Conference included Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Secretary-General, IPPF; Dr. Fred Sai, President, IPPF; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA, and Secretary-General, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; Sir Charles Morrison, Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development; and Mr. Joseph Wheeler, Director, Programme Integration for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The aim of the Conference was to provide an opportunity for European parliamentarians to clarify issues and approaches to UNCED and to the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 (ICPD). The Conference also gave them a chance to suggest ways of increasing awareness and understanding of population issues, with particular emphasis on the how to respond to the needs of the developing world.

The participants of the Conference, representing parliamentarians from 20 European countries and the European Parliament, drew up a "European Agenda for Action on World Population". The Agenda calls for strong new initiatives that will be needed at national, regional, and international levels in order to make family planning universally available before the end of the decade.

European members of parliaments were urged to persuade their Governments to increase bilateral and multilateral development assistance to overseas family planning programmes through a variety of channels such as UNFPA, IPPF and other NGOs working in the population field. The overall aim is to establish an annual assistance level of $ 4 billion by the year 2000. Parliamentarians were also called upon to review current development policies of their Governments and to establish parliamentary population groups where they do not already exist. Population policies and family planning programmes should be integrated into the overall sustainable development strategy, the Agenda says.

Parliamentarians were also encouraged to overcome existing obstacles in realizing universal access to family planning and to contraceptive availability in order to reduce the number of abortions worldwide, and to respond to the public health consequences of unsafe abortions. The agenda also recommends the establishment of a Global Commission on Population to gather evidence from experts and parliamentarians in anticipation of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

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